



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Daniel R. Ebert, Chairperson
Robert M. Garvin, Commissioner
Mark Meyer, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

For Immediate Release – July 14, 2006
Contact: Linda Barth or Amanda Riddell, 608-266-9600

Conserve Energy while Staying Cool This Weekend

MADISON – When summer temperatures reach unbearable levels like they are predicted to this weekend, staying cool is a priority. Air conditioners continue to be a popular method in keeping cool during hot days, but they can also lead to much higher utility bills. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has some ideas to help you stay comfortable during the summer months.

Tips to help stay cool and save energy during the summer months

- Close windows, drapes, shades and blinds to keep the sun out – especially on the west and south sides of your home or office.
- Use air conditioners that are ENERGY STAR® qualified, which means they are energy efficient.
- If you have a programmable thermostat, set the temperature higher when you are away from home and cooler before you return. If you use a window air conditioner, set the timer to turn on shortly before you expect to be home.
- Check that no objects are blocking the air vents of your air conditioner, preventing cooling.
- Clean dirt and leaves off of air conditioner coils on outside units to improve air flow.
- Clean or replace filters on central air units, furnaces and air handlers frequently.
- Regulate humidity in the home. Dry air is easier to cool.
- Use natural lighting and compact fluorescent lights rather than heat-generating incandescent light bulbs
- Turn off electronics, such as computers, radios and televisions which you are not using.
- If you do not have an air conditioner, use window fans to blow warm air out of your home. Use a house fan and ceiling fans to keep the air circulating.
- Turn off ceiling fans when you are not in the room.
- Close the doors and shut off registers in rooms not being used.
- Cook with small appliances or outside rather than using the stove or oven.
- Use cold water for doing laundry and washing dishes.
- Run dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are full.
- Stay away from direct heat and wear lighter and looser clothing.
- Drink plenty of fluids and stay hydrated.

Almost one-half of homes' gas and electric costs is for heating and cooling. No matter what method you use to stay cool in the summer, you can save money by following the suggestions above. Visit www.focusonenergy.com or call 800-762-7077 to learn more about ways to conserve energy or visit www.energystar.gov to see which energy efficient products are approved by ENERGY STAR.

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